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December 21, 1992

Final Report on ONR Contract: Support
for a Symposium on Molecular Approaches to Phylogeny,
Evolution and Biogeography

(SJSU Foundation Acc. # 21-1509-5562)

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Michael S. Foster

Final Report

This contract was originally to support participants' travel to a symposium on "Molecular Approaches to Phylogeny, Evolution, and Biogeography" held at the Western Society of Naturalists meeting in Santa Barbara on December 28, 1991. The symposium was a great success, facilitating information exchange among the participants and educating the audience on some very topical issues in biology. However, two of the speakers could not attend because of illness, and travel costs for the others were less than anticipated.

In May, 1991, I requested that the remaining funds (~\$2300) be used to support travel to scientific meetings in Mexico, and to purchase a laser printer for use by the Western Society of Naturalists in preparing newsletters and programs. This request was granted by ONR. The printer was purchased and is being used to prepare the program for January 1993 Western Society of Naturalists meeting, co-sponsored by Oregon State University, to be held in Newport, Oregon.

Most of the remaining funds supported the travel of eight masters students from Moss Landing Marine Labs and myself to attend the "IV International Congress on Research in the Sea of Cortez" held in Ensenada on September 2-4, 1992. We presented two papers on the

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ecology of rhodolith (free-living coralline algae) beds in Bahia Concepcion. Attending the meeting led to a very useful exchange of information beneficial to us as well as our Mexical colleagues, and the meeting allowed us to arrange for further collaborative work in Baja California Sur. At the meeting I was invited to give a seminar at The Autonomous University of Baja California Sur in La Paz in November, 1992. I used the last \$100 of the ONR contract to help support my travel to La Paz, with the rest of the expenses paid by Moss Landing. As a result of the seminar and meeting with faculty and administrators at UABCS, we are currently preparing a joint working agreement between UABCS and Moss Landing Marine Labs, preparing NSF proposals to support collaborative research on rhodolith bed ecology and geology, and preparing a USAID proposal to support travel for scholarly exchange. The original symposium, additional travel support, and the laser printer all greatly contributed to the exchange of scientific information and facilitated future scientic research and collaboration.

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